

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 775
USUN NEW YORK 1251

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7219

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, UN
SUBJECT: KOREAN THOUGHTS ON ALTERNATIVE UN STRATEGY

1. I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF KOREAN QUESTION
IN THE UN WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
DURING VISIT TO PUSAN THIS PAST WEEKEND. IN THE COURSE OF THIS
DISCUSSION THEY RAISED THE DESIRABILITY OF AN ALTERNATIVE STRAT-
EGY BASED ON THEIR CURRENT ASSESSMENT THAT VOTING WOULD BE CLOSE
AND OUTCOME UNCERTAIN.

2. PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS IN THEIR THINKING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THEY WANT TO GET THE KOREAN QUESTION OUT OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY. THEY FIND THE EFFORT AND COST OF RALLYING SUPPORT EACH
YEAR NO LONGER JUSTIFIED BY THE BENEFITS RECEIVED AND GIVEN THE
RISK FROM UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS.

B. THEY ARE NOW PERSUADED THAT THE CONCEPT OF DUAL ADMISSION
ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSALITY HAS NOT RECEIVED SUFFICIENT GENERAL
SUPPORT TO PROVIDE ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION
THIS YEAR.

C. THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH SOME COMPROMISE THAT WOULD
END THE DEBATE WITH A RESOLUTION
ACCEPTING THE DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK AND REFERRING THE QUESTION
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OF THE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE UN PRESENCE TO THE SCURITY COUNCIL.

3. THE KOREANS SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS WE COULD WORK OUT WITH THE CHINESE A COMPROMISE ALONG THESE LINES. THEY FELT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HAPPY TO BE RID OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT SEE IT AS A WAY OF REMOVING AN IRRITANT IN US/PRC RELATIONS. IF THIS IS FEASIBLE THEN WE MIGHT AVOID VOTES ON OPPOSING RESOLUTIONS AND GET A CONSENSUS ON THE COMPROMISE WHICH COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT BY GENERAL AGREEMENT. I NOTED THAT NORTH KOREANS MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO FOREGO THEIR DEMANDS AND THAT CHINESE AND RUSSIANS WERE BACKING THEM AT THE CURRENT UNGA.

4. AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE KOREANS SUGGESTED THAT QUESTION BE DEALT WITH BY AMENDMENTS TO THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WHEN IT COMES UP FOR CONSIDERATION. SUCH AMENDMENTS WOULD EMBODY AGREEMENT ON DISSOLUTION OF UNCURK AND REFERRAL OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF KOREAN QUESTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S AND USUN'S VIEWS. EVIDENTLY ROKG BELIEVES ALTERNATIVES ARE WORTHY OF SERIOUS EXAMINATION WITH US AT THIS STAGE.

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